

Appl. No. 10/087,458
Amdt. dated December 27, 2005

Amendments to the Specification:

Please replace the following paragraphs with the following:

[15] ~~Figure 4 is a~~ **Figures 4A and 4B are** simplified diagrams of the trimming apparatus according to an embodiment of the present invention **showing front and side views, respectively;**

[17] ~~Figure 6 is a~~ **Figures 6A and 6B are** more detailed diagrams of a trimming head according to an embodiment of the present invention **showing oblique and side views, respectively;**

[18] ~~Figure 7 is a simplified diagram~~ **Figures 7A - 7C are schematic elevation views** of rotating patterns of the head according to an embodiment of the present invention; and

[21] Figures 1 through 3 are simplified diagrams 100 of a trimming method according to an embodiment of the present invention. These diagrams are merely examples that should not unduly limit the scope of the claims herein. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize many other variations, modifications, and alternatives. As shown the trimming method includes a trimming apparatus or device 101, which includes a variety of features. Such features include an oscillating surface 103. Such surface is mounted on a hand held member 105. The hand held member directs the oscillating surface to a nail 107 of an infant's finger, which is on the infant's hand. The infant's hand 109 and hand held member are held by a pair of adult hands 111, 113 such as those from the infant's mother or father. One hand holds and directs the hand held member while the other hand holds the infant's hand and finger.

[22] Referring to Figure 2, the method **of using a nail trimming device 200** includes applying an abrasive surface 1 coupled to a moving member 2 against both an extended nail portion 201 and a surrounding epidermal tissue portion 203 to cause a grinding action on the extended nail portion. The abrasive surface is coupled to the moving member being driven by an electric drive device coupled to the moving member. The abrasive surface applied to both the extended nail portion and the surrounding epidermal tissue portion is characterized by a predetermined speed, a predetermined action, and a selected texture to remove the nail portion by the grinding action while maintaining the surrounding epidermal tissue substantially free from any physical damage. Preferably, the surrounding epidermal tissue contacts an abrasive surface of the moving member and moves with an action of the abrasive surface, which does not cut or tear the tissue. Once the extended nail has been removed, the moving member is also moved away 300 from the finger, as illustrated by way of Figure 3. As shown,

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the moving member has generally been applied at an angle that is substantially normal to the protruding finger nail. In a specific embodiment, such angle may deviate to about 60 degrees from the normal position. As also shown, the moving member extends away 301 from the portion to be held by the hand,

[23] ~~Figure 4 is a simplified diagram~~ **FIGS. 4A and 4B are simplified diagrams** of a trimming apparatus 400 according to an embodiment of the present invention. This diagram is merely an example and should not unduly limit the scope of the claims herein. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize many other variations, modifications, and alternatives. The apparatus 400 is illustrated in a front-view portion 401 and a side view portion 451. The apparatus has a mobile housing comprising an elongated body member 405. An upper portion 407 of the elongated body is intended to be a site from a thumb as index fingers are used as a site on the front portion. A lower portion 409 of the elongated body member is tapered. As shown, the moving surface **403** and elongated body form an angle 411, where the moving surface is not parallel to the elongated body. The angle allows an operator holding the elongated body to position the moving surface toward a finger nail. The angle θ ranges from about 0 degrees to about 90 degrees. Further details of the apparatus are provided below.

[24] Figure 5 is a system diagram of the trimming apparatus 400 according to an embodiment of the present invention. This diagram is merely an example and should not unduly limit the scope of the claims herein. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize many other variations, modifications, and alternatives. The apparatus 400 has an electric drive device within and coupled to the housing **501 and coupled via a switch 503 to a power supply 502**. The electric drive device has a transfer member 505, which causes rotational movement or other movement. A movable head 509, which may be removable and replaceable, is coupled to the transfer member of the electric drive device. The movable head is adapted to receive mechanical energy from the electric drive device 504 through the transfer member. An abrasive surface 508, which is capable of a grinding action, is coupled to the movable head. A shock absorbing member 507 is coupled between the movable head and the abrasive surface. The shock absorbing member is capable of allowing the abrasive member to conform onto a non-conformal surface. The shock absorbing member is coupled to moveable head member 506, which connects to the drive device. Further details of the head are provided more fully below.

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[25] ~~Figure 6 is a more detailed diagram~~ Figures 6A and 6B are more detailed diagrams of a trimming head 600 according to an embodiment of the present invention. This diagram is merely an example and should not unduly limit the scope of the claims herein. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize many other variations, modifications, and alternatives. As shown, the trimming head includes abrasive surface 601, which couples to shock absorbing material 602. The shock absorbing material 602 couples to rigid substrate 603. Depending upon the embodiment, there can also be other layers, which are sandwiched between any of these layers. Of course, such layers will depend highly upon the application.

[26] ~~Figure 7 is a simplified diagram~~ Figures 7A – 7C are schematic elevational views of rotating patterns 700 of the head according to an embodiment of the present invention. This diagram is merely an example and should not unduly limit the scope of the claims herein. One of ordinary skill in the art would recognize many other variations, modifications, and alternatives. As shown, the rotating patterns include oscillation, which moves the abrasive member 701 about a fixed arc 707. The arc can range from about 5 degrees to about 180 degrees. The rotating pattern can also include lateral movement 709, which moves the head 703 up to 3 times the width of the head. Alternatively, the rotating pattern can include orbital movement 705, 711. Depending upon the embodiment, any of the above movements can be combined with each other or with others that have not been described. The movements can be variable or constant or any combination of these, depending upon the application.